

West St. Paul Environmental Committee
December 4, 2019
West St. Paul Municipal Center-Administrative Conference Room

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members in attendance: Carol Hall, Tara Wright, Kristy Otte, Rebecca McCarty, Polly Saatzer, Jade Pennig

Non-voting members present: Lisa Eng-Sarne, Samantha Green, Dave Schletty

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. The November meeting minutes were approved by the committee.

b. Site Plan Review 1140 Robert St.

Schletty reviewed the memo regarding the site plan for 1140 Robert St S, (Wakota Life Care Center). The applicant would like to construct a new two-story 9,700 square foot medical office building. The committee reviewed the memo. One member commented that the plan is an, "overall property improvement." Schletty agreed and said that the building is losing green space in the front but making up for it in the back. A committee member talked about the candy shop building that would abut the new building. She said that it is right next to the building. Schletty said that he had no concerns about the proximity; the [area] would not be used for access and met the setback requirements.

A motion was made to approve the site plan with the following recommendations:

(The installation of) Green Roof tops
Dark Sky lighting compliance
Pollinator- friendly plant not treated with neonicotinoids

The motion carried. All Ayes

4. UPDATES

a. Subcommittee

- i. **1010 Dodd Redevelopment**-Pennig reported on the subcommittee's preliminary design concepts for the lot. One of the challenges for the design plan of the lot is its large size (1 200 square feet) and the accessibility issues to proposed plantings or planters. Watering the plants is an issue; the cost to hook up water is \$8-9,000. It would not be a realistic option. Schletty said that city staff could start off watering new plantings with its water trucks.

Ideas for the lot included.

Shade structure
Eagle Scout Project
Raised beds for easy community gardening
Planting native species
Herb spiral
Displaying Information on signs for the native plantings
Selfie Spots Station
Food truck area with a picnic spot

Gaga Pit
Hammock Grove
Bee Houses
Bird Feeders

Rick Hansen is also working on obtaining funding for municipalities through the “Lawns to Loons” grant. The grant focuses on promoting pollinators like the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

The subcommittee will present a more formal design at the January committee meeting. The committee decided to postpone their next meeting to Wednesday, January 8.

- ii. **GreenStep-** The subcommittee has not met. The Climate Change Resolution was given the “green light” from City Council. It will be on next Monday’s consent agenda. Wright would like to move forward with the Living Streets data gathering and the Bird City initiatives. She would also like to implement an ordinance regarding neonicotinoids and pollinator friendly plantings to make it “standard.” Schletty will invite planning department staff to discuss what is possible.

- b. **City Council- Update- Eng-Sarne said that Claudia will be at Council Meeting during the consent agenda .**

c. **Staff Update-**

- i. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources grant-** The City received a \$25 grant from the DNR for tree planting to replace trees removed because of Emerald Ash Borer infestation.
 - ii. **Committee Application-** Schletty said that Hall is the only member who needs to reapply to the committee if she wants reappointment. He will follow up to see if McCarty also needs to reapply.
- d. **Park and Recreation Committee did not meet last month.** Kevin Hendricks is working on a grant to create a mosaic pillar for the Oakdale Butler lot.
 - e. **Planning Commission-Green reported Planning Commission finalized zoning changes to revitalize the Smith Dodd corridor.** They are also working on taking away the parking restrictions to redevelop the roadways in the district.

5. **OTHER-NA**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business before the Committee and with no objections, the Environmental Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:02 pm.